

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 994
By Person, Curtis

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Marilyn Anita Mitchell Wray on the occasion of her retirement as the Director of Lower School at Evangelical Christian School.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those outstanding Tennesseans who have dedicated their professional lives to nurturing and developing this state's most precious resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Anita Mitchell Wray has announced her plans to retire after thirty-one years of meritorious service to the students and families of Evangelical Christian School in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wray's creativity and leadership have made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of young people during her illustrious tenure at Evangelical Christian School; and

WHEREAS, we wish to extend our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Wray as she pursues the greener pastures and hopefully more leisurely pace of retirement; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Wray began her illustrious career in elementary education as a sixth grade teacher at Sherwood Elementary School, serving there two academic years before becoming a fourth grade teacher at Presbyterian Day School, where she taught for five years; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Mrs. Wray began her long and mutually beneficial association with Evangelical Christian School, serving as a fifth grade teacher; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1974, she began one of the most enduring and proficient tenures in educational administration that Shelby County has ever known, as she assumed the reins of leadership as Director of Lower School at Evangelical Christian School, a position in

which she has served with the greatest ability, probity, integrity, compassion and diligence for thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wray has served Evangelical Christian School in many and varied capacities during her estimable career as Director of Lower School; and

WHEREAS, she has served as Chairman of SACS and ACSI Visiting Teams and as a Seminar Leader at ACSI Conferences; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady has also directed numerous student retreats and field days; sponsored and chaperoned hundreds of students at BMA Camp; and conducted a multitude of faculty in-service programs; and

WHEREAS, perhaps Mrs. Wray's outstanding service to and indelible mark on Evangelical Christian School is best exemplified by two astonishing facts: she has overseen the relocation of the Lower School campus on fourteen separate occasions, and she has provided astute leadership to the school's faculty, students and parents for over 11,000 days; and

WHEREAS, throughout all her endeavors, Mrs. Wray has embodied both the Mission of Evangelical Christian School (to provide the Christian family a Christ-centered, biblically-directed education that challenges students to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to develop the vision and practice of excellence in academics, character, leadership and service to others) and the school's equally worthy Academic Mission (to create a vigorous academic culture that kindles a passion for learning, develops intellectual gifts and cultivates a Christian worldview, so students are prepared for collegiate success and equipped to lead lives of integrity and influence for Christ); and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Anita Mitchell Wray is a native Memphian who was born on Good Friday, March 25, 1932; she is one of the three children of Chester and Mary Mitchell, her siblings being June Mitchell Wood and Sidney Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, she attended Gordon Elementary School and Humes Junior High School in Memphis before completing her secondary education at Humes High School, graduating with Honors in 1950; and

WHEREAS, she then attended Rhodes College and graduated with Distinction from that fine institution in 1954, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English; she subsequently earned a Master of Arts degree in Education from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, during her collegiate days, Mrs. Wray served astutely as President of Kappa Delta Sorority and Pi Inter-Sorority and was a member of Torch Honor Society; her great beauty, both external and internal, was recognized by her selection as Homecoming Queen and April Fool Queen and her prominence as a "Beauty" in Rhodes' annual, *Lynx*; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her distinguished career, Mrs. Wray has remained committed to the promotion and prosperity of both her alma maters; she has served with acumen and alacrity on the Board of Directors of the University of Memphis Alumni Association and as President of the University's Campus School PTA and as Secretary of the Rhodes College Alumni Council; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wray expresses her devout faith as she attends Independent Presbyterian Church, where she is a member of the Adult Choir; and

WHEREAS, she feels fortunate to share love and companionship with her husband, Milton Wray, a Certified Public Accountant and U.S. Naval Reserve Aviator; married on February 20, 1954, Mr. and Mrs. Wray are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year, an occasion that is golden in more respects than one; and

WHEREAS, the Wrays are the proud parents of a son, Dr. William Andrew Wray, a dermatologist in Jackson, and a daughter, Lynda Wray Black, an attorney in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, they are also devoted to their five grandsons, Andrew, Alexander, Christopher, David, and Charles; and

WHEREAS, professionals of Mrs. Wray's eminent stature do not often walk among us; her many innovative ideas and programs for the classroom and beyond, her stalwart dedication to the precepts of quality education and the welfare of children, and the sheer delight she takes in the personal relationships she has with her faculty, her students and their parents, and her peers, all combine to make her an extraordinary educator, public servant, and human being; and

WHEREAS, as Mrs. Wray answers the tantalizing call of retirement, it is most appropriate that we should wish her well in all of her future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Marilyn Anita Mitchell Wray on the occasion of her retirement as Director of Lower School at Evangelical Christian School. We salute her excellent career as a teacher and administrator who has served the children of Memphis and Shelby County with the greatest distinction, applauding her commitment to quality education for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the text of this resolution be spread upon the Senate Journal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.